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GEN. MAXWELL D. TAYLOR

# New Taylor Role Worries Pentagon

By ELIE ABEL

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WASHINGTON, June 27

—The Defense Department swallowed hard today over the recall to active duty of Gen. Maxwell D. Taylor, retired Army chief of staff.

President Kennedy appointed Taylor his personal "military representative," with offices in the White House as well as the Pentagon. The assignment moves Taylor, a handsome former paratrooper and Korean War commander, into a strategic slot which can only be compared with that of Adm. William D. Leahy in World War II.

Having the President's ear, Taylor would be in an ideal position to bypass or short-circuit the Joint Chiefs of Staff—if he chose to do so. There were some in the Pentagon who felt the temptation might be irresistible.

## GIVES ASSURANCES

The White House, of course, took pains to reassure both the Joint Chiefs and Congress that nothing of the kind was going to happen.

Mr. Kennedy himself called in the Chiefs—headed by Gen. Lyman L. Lemnitzer—Saturday morning. He told them the Taylor appointment was coming, assured them it meant no reflection on their past service and promised the Chiefs they would not be downgraded or bypassed.

Pierre Salinger, White House press secretary, added a public assurance yesterday that Taylor would not be interposed between the President and the Defense Department, the Joint Chiefs or the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA).

But the Pentagon remained highly skeptical. The Taylor appointment was viewed there as a money-back guarantee of divided counsels and squabbles over military policy.

## McNAMARA IN ACCORD

On the surface all was serene. A Pentagon spokesman issued this statement: "The President had, of course, discussed the appointment of Gen. Taylor thoroughly with the secretary of defense and Mr. McNamara is entirely in accord with it."

If the statement lacked a trace of hats-off enthusiasm it accurately conveyed the unhappiness, tinged with resignation, that reporters encountered in the marble hallways of the Defense Department.

The Joint Chiefs, who pride themselves on being the President's military advisers, took cold comfort from the official announcement that Gen. Taylor would also be available to "give his personal views to assist the President in reaching decisions."

He will have the additional task of watching over "the intelligence apparatus of the government," meaning the CIA, Naval Intelligence, the Army's G-2 section and the National Security Agency.

## CONFIDENCE SHAKEN

Gen. Taylor has just completed an inquiry for President Kennedy on the effectiveness of the nation's intelligence network. This was a direct consequence of the Cuban invasion fiasco, which shook the President's confidence in many of his professional advisers, including CIA Director Allen W. Dulles and the Joint Chiefs.

In fairness to the President, Defense officials concede that he had good reason to feel let down. Mr. Kennedy, they suspect, wants the advice of the experts double-checked by a man of unquestioned personal loyalty whose judgment he re-

than once into sharp conflict with former President Eisenhower. Taylor created plenty of controversy before he was nudged into "early retirement," according to Sherman Adams, Mr. Eisenhower's chief aide.

## TAYLOR'S VIEWS

In his book, "The Uncertain Trumpet," Taylor argued for much stronger U.S. ground forces with assured mobility to deal with limited war situations.

Already there are unconfirmed reports that Taylor, who created the Army's "pentomic" divisions, has drafted a letter for the President's signature attacking the current plan to scrap the divisional structure he developed.

Taylor's first assignment will be to review military planning in connection with the brewing Berlin crisis.

The 1. by parallel gives no assurance of smooth sailing ahead. As chief of staff to the late President Roosevelt, and briefly to former President Truman, Leahy also operated out of the White House.

He helped to co-ordinate the flow of military and political information to the President's desk, even helping to draft the historic Truman Doctrine for opposing Communist expansion round the world.

## CHARGE INTERFERENCE

Leahy's activities led to congressional charges of White House interference in the responsibilities of the State and Defense departments.

But Leahy was operating before the unification of the armed services into a single Department of Defense. In those days the Navy and War departments were independent, each headed by a secretary and a chief of staff.

Now, Pentagon officials argue, there is less excuse for creating a new military adviser in the White House. Gen. Lemnitzer, as chairman of the Joint Chiefs, has over-all responsibility for the development of U.S. strategic plans.

Any second-guessing by Taylor is bound to be resented, say the professional soldiers.

A 59-year-old soldier of strong views, which brought him more